

Cross country skiing abounds in area

For pleasure and exercise at a nominal fee, cross-country ski on a golf course in Southeast Michigan, suggests Automobile Club of Michigan.

Auto Club's 1980-81 guide lists 30 golf courses offering the popular winter sport within an hour's drive of Detroit.

"Cross-country skiing is not only at the top of America's 'keep fit' list, but it's easy and inexpensive," said Auto Club's Touring Manager Joseph Ratke. "There is no fee for skiing on one-third of the courses in our guide."

Of the public golf courses in the eight-county region, 28 have refreshment areas, 21 offer rental equipment, 20 have marked trails (eight of which are lighted) and 14 offer skiing instructions.

"Golf courses offer beginners wide-open areas in which to learn Nordic skiing, or a place for intermediates and experts to get in shape for longer tours," said Ratke.

According to industry predictions, cross-country skiing should surpass downhill in popularity by 1983. Currently in the U.S., there are an estimated 7 million cross-country skiers and 11 million who downhill.

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